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During the current term the Berkeley Astronomical Department is conducting for the first time a course in the reduction and measurement of astronomical photographs, with an enrollment of four graduate students. The course is being given by Dr. NEWKIRK. With the completion of the photographic telescope with two portrait lenses and the acquirement of a Repsold measuring-apparatus, the department now has this branch of instruction thoroughly organized.

A. O. LEUSCHNER.

#### THE SPECTROSCOPIC BINARY, *U Aquilae*.

In the fall of 1905 several spectrograms of the variable star *U Aquilae* were obtained with the one-prism spectrograph. Rough measures give a velocity-curve of double amplitude of about 25km and a period coinciding with the period of light variation, which is 7.02 days. . S. ALBRECHT.

March 26, 1906.

#### THE AWARD OF THE GOLD MEDAL OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY TO PROFESSOR W. W. CAMPBELL.

In the last number of these *Publications* brief mention was made of the award of this medal to Dr. CAMPBELL. Since then an advance copy has been received of the address of Mr. W. H. MAW, President of the Royal Astronomical Society, in making the award and of the response of Mr. WHITELAW REID, American Ambassador, in accepting it in the medalist's name.

Mr. Maw's address, after a brief sketch of the history of the determination of the radial velocities of the stars and of the discovery of spectroscopic binary stars, gives in more detail Dr. CAMPBELL's contributions to the development of these departments of astronomical research. After speaking of the Mills spectrograph, designed by Dr. CAMPBELL, of the great number of spectrograms taken with it, and of the fact that seventy-five, or more than one half, of the known spectroscopic binaries stand to the credit of the Lick Observatory (including the D. O. Mills Expedition to the Southern Hemisphere), twenty-nine being discovered by Professor CAMPBELL himself, and five more by him in conjunction with another observer, Mr. Maw continues:—

"Nor is the importance of our medalist's work on the determination of radial velocities and the characteristics of spectroscopic binaries to be judged simply, or even chiefly, by its amount. Of even greater value is the influence which he has personally exerted on the accuracy of observations of radial velocity."

It is shown that the advance in accuracy of such measures is largely due to improvements in the optical and mechanical construction of spectrographs introduced by Dr. CAMPBELL, to the use of iron as a comparison spectrum, and to refinements in methods of plate measurements also due to him. Special attention is called to Dr. CAMPBELL'S discovery of and researches on the interesting spectroscopic binary systems— $\zeta$  *Geminorum*, *Capella*, and *Polaris*; to his discussion of the Sun's way, based on data secured with the Mills spectrograph, and to his work on the Wolf-Rayet type stars and on *Mira Ceti*.

— The important part taken by Professor CAMPBELL in recent solar eclipse work is dwelt upon, and brief mention is also made of his researches on nebular spectra, the spectra of comets, and of temporary stars, for the last named of which the Lalande prize was awarded to him in 1903.

The address is too long to quote from satisfactorily, but should be read by all who are interested in the progress of the astrophysical work of the Lick Observatory.

It is an interesting coincidence that the American Ambassador, Mr. WHITELAW REID, who received the medal for Dr. CAMPBELL, is the son-in-law of Mr. D. O. MILLS, to whose generosity the Mills spectrograph and the Mills Expedition to the Southern Hemisphere are due. Mr. REID'S short address will be of general interest, and is therefore reprinted in full:—

"It is a pleasure to serve as the medium for transmitting this mark of your distinguished approval to my countryman on the far Pacific Coast of the United States; and the personal circumstances, to which you have made such gracious allusion, give the duty a special zest.

"Professor CAMPBELL will certainly value your decoration as highly as a soldier or statesman would value one sent him by a sovereign. In his name I beg to tender profound thanks to the Royal Astronomical Society for this medal; and to you, sir, as its President, for the learned and generous appreciation of his work to which we have just listened.

"I am warranted in adding also the thanks of the Lick Observatory and of the great University of California of which it forms a part.

"My country is proud of every advance in art or science made by her sons,—prouder of these than of triumphs in trade or in war,—and will be gratified that this high recognition for service to one of the

noblest of sciences comes from a land to which we are so closely related and to whose judgment we attach such importance."

R. G. A.

#### THE CROSSLEY REFLECTOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF EROS.

The measurement and reduction of the Crossley reflector photographs of the minor planet *Eros* taken in 1900-1901 for determining an improved value of the solar parallax, began at Mt. Hamilton in December, 1905, in charge of Dr. PERRINE. Miss FREDRICA CHASE, formerly of Vassar College, and Miss A. M. HOBE, formerly of the Berkeley Astronomical Department, are engaged in the work on the Carnegie Institution foundation. Its completion is expected to require two and one half years. It is planned that these photographs shall furnish their own value of the parallax; nevertheless it is hoped that the measures will be available and valuable for combination with observations made at other institutions.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

#### THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR Langley.

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Professor SAMUEL PIERPONT Langley on February 27th, at the age of seventy-one. Professor Langley became Director of the Allegheny Observatory in 1867 and Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in 1887. His interests in scientific subjects were wide, and his contributions to all subjects receiving his special attention were of the highest importance. At a memorial meeting of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution recently the following resolutions were adopted:—

"Resolved, That the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution express their profound sorrow at the death, on February 27, 1906, of SAMUEL PIERPONT Langley, Secretary of the Institution since 1887, and tender to the relatives of Mr. Langley their sincere sympathy in their bereavement;

"That in the death of Mr. Langley this Institution has lost a distinguished, efficient, and faithful executive officer under whose administration the international influence of the parent Institution has been greatly increased, and by whose personal efforts two important branches of work have been added to its care—the National Zoological Park and the Astrophysical Observatory;

"That the scientific world is indebted to Mr. Langley for the